

## Message Text

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45

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 SAM-01 IO-14 OMB-01 /109 W

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R 151359Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3546  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
ACONSUL JERUSALEM 5785

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 4664

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS

SUBJECT: ISRAELI SETTLEMENT POLICY IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

REF: AMMAN 4736, JERUSALEM 1578

1. SUMMARY. PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY GOI LEADERS IN LAST FEW DAYS  
HAVE EMPHASIZED ISRAELI INTENTION TO PROCEED WITH POLICY OF SETTLEMENT

ON SELECTIVE BASIS WITH PRIORITY TO JORDAN VALLEY, RAFAH JUNCTION,  
GOLAN HEIGHTS AND JERUSALEM AREA. END SUMMARY.

2. PRIME MINISTER RABIN AUGUST 8 IN RADIO INTERVIEW AND DEFENSE  
MINISTER PERES DURING TOUR OF WEST BANK SETTLEMENTS AUGUST 13 HAVE  
STATED THAT GOI POLICY RE SETTLEMENTS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES IS TO  
GIVE PRIORITY TO ESTABLISHING NEW SETTLEMENTS IN RAFAH JUNCTION,  
JORDAN VALLEY AND GOLAN HEIGHTS. PERES ALSO ADDED JERUSALEM AREA  
TO LIST OF PREFERENTIAL AREAS.

3. ON POLICY TOWARD SETTLEMENT IN SAMARIA, RABIN AND PERES  
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BOTH EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS AGAINST ESTABLISHING NEW SETTLEMENTS

AT THIS TIME. RABIN, IN EXPLAINING WHY GOI DID NOT GIVE PRIORITY TO SAMARIA, SAID THAT GOVERNMENT HAD TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT QUESTIONS OF ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY INCLUDING PROSPECTS FOR SUBSTANTIAL DEVELOPMENT AND CONTINUED SETTLEMENT IN DECIDING ON LOCATION OF SETTLEMENTS (OFFICIAL GOI TEXT). PERES IN BLUNTER COMMENT REPORTEDLY STATED THAT, WHILE JEWISH PEOPLE'S LINK WITH HISTORIC LAND OF ISRAEL COULD NOT BE DENIED, ATTENTION HAD TO BE PAID TO POLITICAL REALITIES. SETTLEMENT IN SAMARIA MUST WAIT. PERES ALSO SAID THAT HE WAS OPPOSED TO AD HOC JEWISH SETTLEMENT INVOLVING DISPLACEMENT OF LOCAL ARAB POPULATION (JERUSALEM POST, AUGUST 14).

4. RABIN AND PERES HAVE MET ON SEPARATE OCCASIONS IN LAST FEW DAYS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF "EMUNIM" RELIGIOUS GROUP WHICH HAD ATTEMPTED TO ESTABLISH ILLEGAL SETTLEMENT AT SEBASTIA IN LATE JULY. RABIN PROMISED THEM THAT HE WOULD GIVE THEM REPLY BY WEEKEND ON REQUEST TO SETTLE IN SAMARIA. PERES REPORTEDLY TOLD GROUP THAT, INSTEAD OF TRYING TO SETTLE IN SAMARIA, THEY SHOULD SETTLE IN AREAS THREATENED MORE IMMEDIATELY BY ARAB ARMIES OR TERRORISTS. PERES REPORTEDLY SAID THAT ARGUMENT WITH JORDAN WAS OVER 10 KILOMETER STRIP ALONG JORDAN RIVER, ADDING "IF YOU WANT TO CONFRONT JORDAN, CONFRONT HER IN THE VALLEY." (JERUSALEM POST, AUGUST 11.)

5. IN FURTHER OUTLINING CURRENT VIEWS ON JEWISH SETTLEMENT POLICY, PERES, DURING WEST BANK TOUR NOTED ABOVE, REPORTEDLY ASSURED SETTLERS OF ETZION BLOC THAT FUTURE OF THAT AREA "IS BEYOND DOUBT." PERES RECALLED THAT ISRAELIS WERE EVICTED BY FORCE FROM ETZION BLOC AREA DURING WAR OF INDEPENDENCE. THEY HAD NOW ESTABLISHED VIABLE SETTLEMENT AND THERE WAS NO QUESTION AS TO THEIR STANDING.

6. AL HAMISHMAR AUGUST 13 REPORTS THAT GUSH ETZION SETTLERS PRESENTED REQUEST TO PERES FOR PERMISSION TO ESTABLISH FIFTH JEWISH SETTLEMENT, AND PERES REPORTEDLY INDICATED THAT MATTER WOULD BE GIVEN CAREFUL CONSIDERATION. ARTICLE ADDS THAT WORK IS CONTINUING ON FOURTH SETTLEMENT WHICH IS EARMARKED FOR SETTLEMENT BY RECENT IMMIGRANTS FROM US. A RECENT VISIT BY AMCONGEN JERUSALEM OFFICER TO AREA HAS CONFIRMED THAT WORK IS IN PROGRESS ON THIS FOURTH SETTLEMENT, ETZION GIMMEL, ESTABLISHMENT OF WHICH WAS AUTHORIZED OVER A YEAR AGO (SEE TEL AVIV 1510).

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7. TRANSPORT MINISTER YAACOB, IN REPORTING TO KNESSET AGUST 14 ON BUDGET OF HIS MINISTRY, SAID THAT GOI IS "LOOKING INTO" POSSIBILITY OF BUILDING A DEEPWATER PORT SOUTH OF GAZA.

YAACOB REPORTEDLY SAID THAT PLAN UNDER CONSIDERATION IS BASED ON ESTIMATES THAT ISRAEL'S EXISTING SEAPORTS WILL SERVE COUNTRY'S SHIPPING NEEDS ONLY UNTIL BEGINNING OF 1980S.

8. COMMENTS FOLLOW BY SEPTTEL.  
KEATING

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## Message Attributes

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